

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

June 28, 1954

At 8:45 p.m. I telephoned Ambassador Pourifoy in Guatemala City. He said that he was at that time sending me a cable.

He said that a half hour earlier he had returned from a meeting with Colonels Diaz, Monzon and Sanchez who comprise the military junta which is now running the country. Colonel Diaz today resigned the title of President which he had assumed upon Arbenz' resignation last night.

Ambassador Pourifoy said that the junta requests a cease-fire order, and had asked him to attempt to get word to Castillo Armas requesting that he fly in to Guatemala City for a conference at the house of the Papal Nuncio. They propose that he come in by plane on a safe conduct guarantee. Ambassador Pourifoy said that he would be present at the airport at the time of the landing to be sure that the safe conduct landing is respected.

The Ambassador says that he feels that the proposal is made in good faith, that it is a good idea and that it would be a mistake for Castillo Armas to refuse to meet.

He told the junta that he had no idea whether it would be possible for him to get word to Castillo Armas, but that he would attempt to do so. The Ambassador asked whether I could undertake this. I replied that I had no idea how it could be accomplished, though it is my impression that there are a number of newspapers who have reporters with Castillo Armas. Perhaps word could be transmitted through one of them. I stated that, in any event, we would do our best to transmit the message and report back to the Ambassador by telephone or by cable.

The Ambassador proposed that the conference be held under an agreement to cease fire during the period of the talks, it being understood that hostilities would be resumed if no agreement were reached.

The Ambassador reported that at three o'clock this afternoon a plane had flown over the city, had dropped a bomb on an "old fort" and had strafed.

He reported that the junta had issued decrees appointing a new Chief of the Guardia Civil, abolishing the Communist Party, establishing marshal law and declaring a state of siege. He said that the last move was desirable in that during a state of siege the Army assumed the responsibility for maintaining order rather than the civil government.

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COPIES TO: The Secretary
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